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Neumann

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(54) **CHIN STRAP FOR A CAP AND COMBINATION THEREOF**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **2/175.7**; 2/209.13; 132/58
(58) **Field of Search** ..... 2/175.1, 195.1, 2/209.13, 421, 175.7; 24/3.11, 3.13, 115 H, 298, 115 G, 300, 563; 132/58

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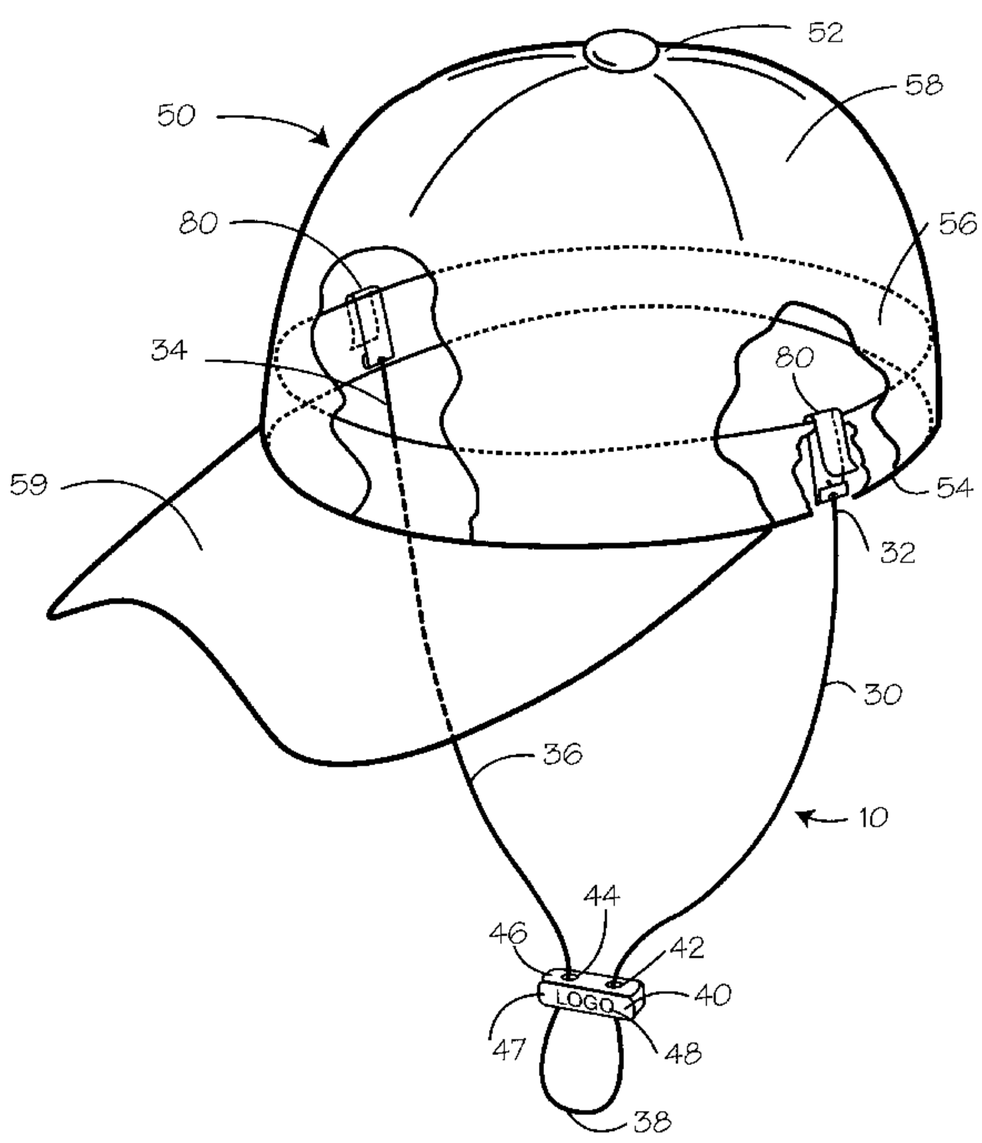
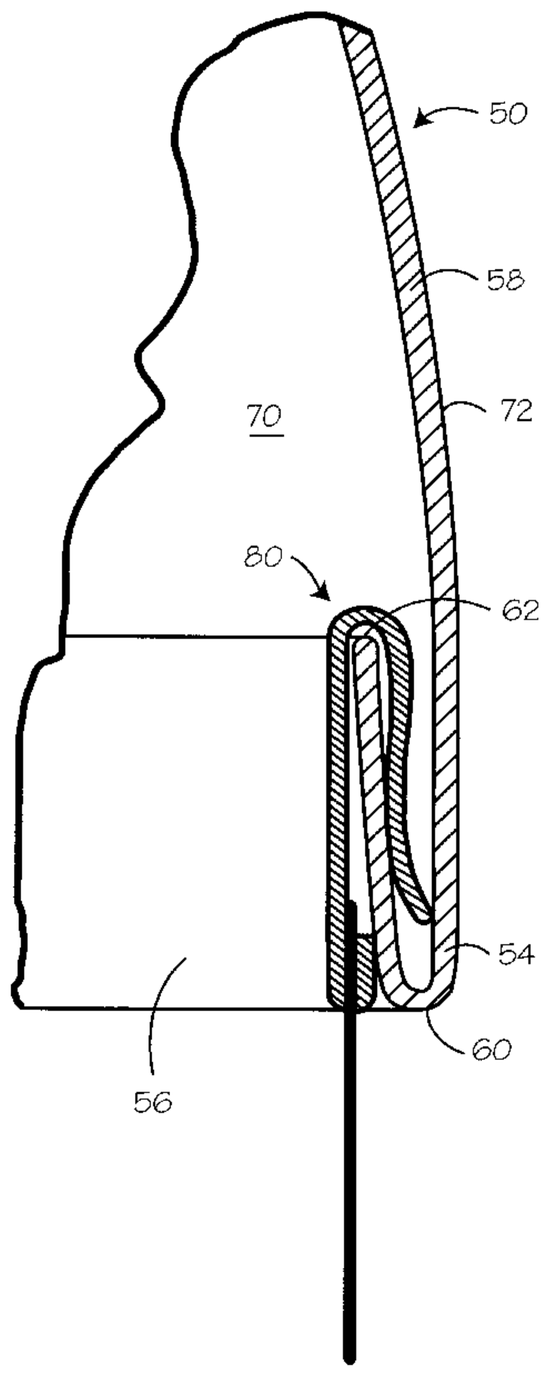
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A chin strap which can be used to retrofit an existing head covering so as to provide a means to retain the head covering on the wearer's head without damage to or modification of the head covering. The chin strap is an elongate strand and is provided with a clip at each end. The clips are used to secure the elongate strand to the interior band of the head covering by attachment of a clip on both the left and right side of the interior band. The clip slips over the interior band and is maintained in place by means of clip spring tension. The elongate strand extends between the two clips and is provided in a length which allows generous slack. The amount of slack in the chin strap is adjusted to the comfort of the wearer using a bead or adjustment clip mounted in the mid portion of the elongate strand. The bead or adjustment clip may be imprinted with a logo or trademark so that the chin strap may be used as an advertisement or promotional item. The chin strap is provided with a novel packaging card which simultaneously presents the invention and illustrates its use. A kit is described which includes the components of at least one unassembled chin strap.

29 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets





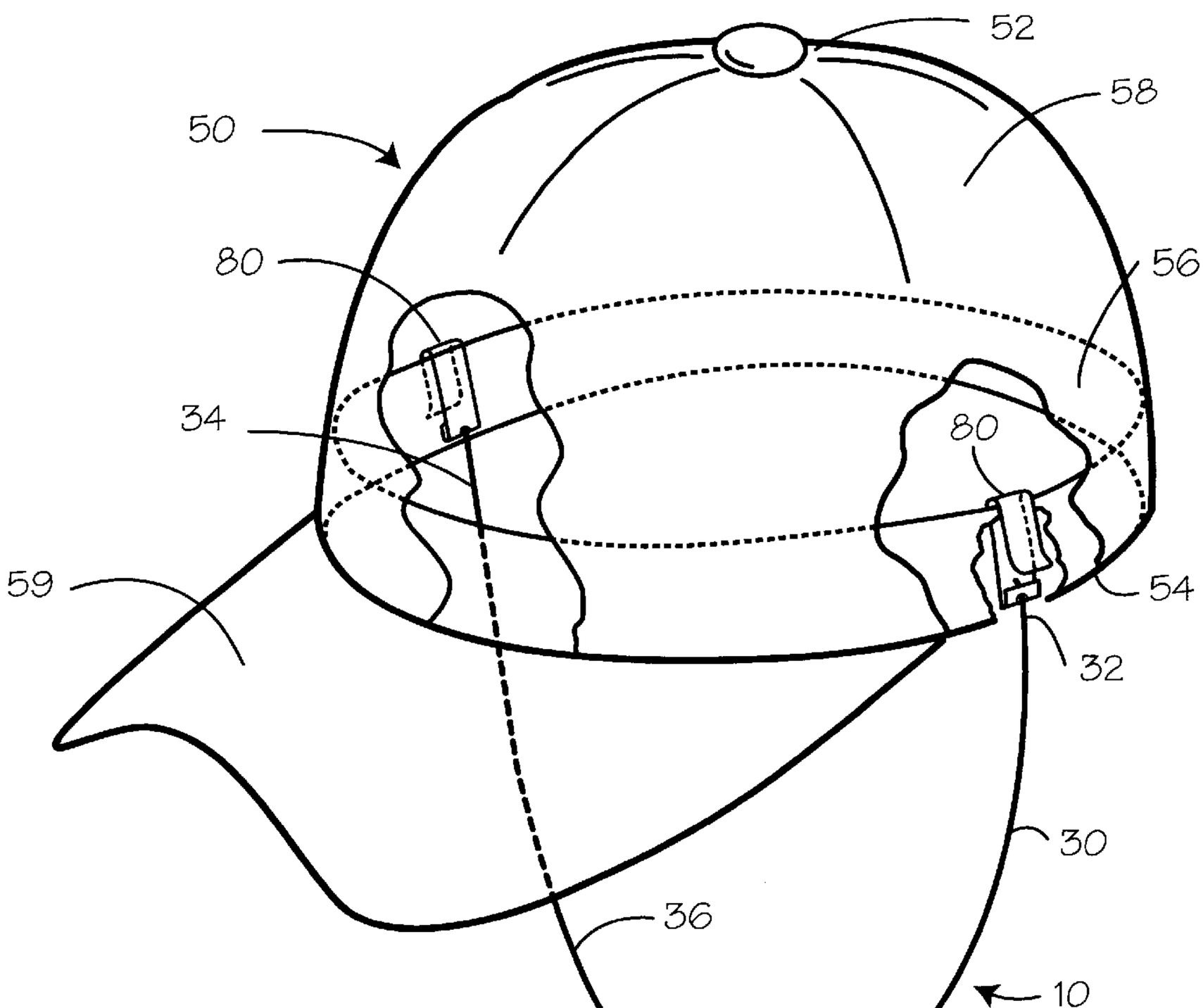

52
58
50
56
80
34
80
59
54
32
30
36
10
44
46
42
LOGO
40
47
48
38

FIG. 1

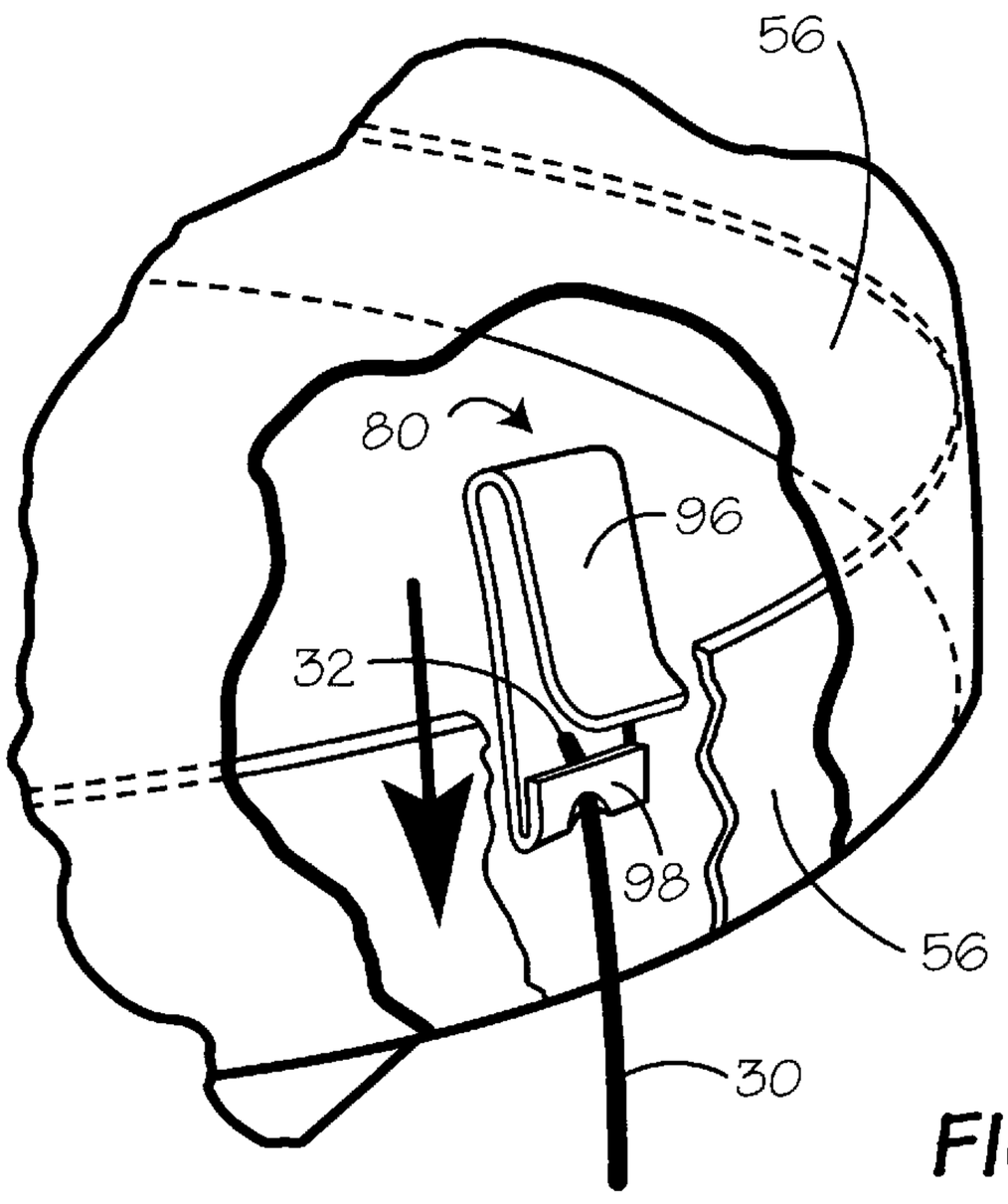

56
80
96
32
98
56
30

FIG. 2

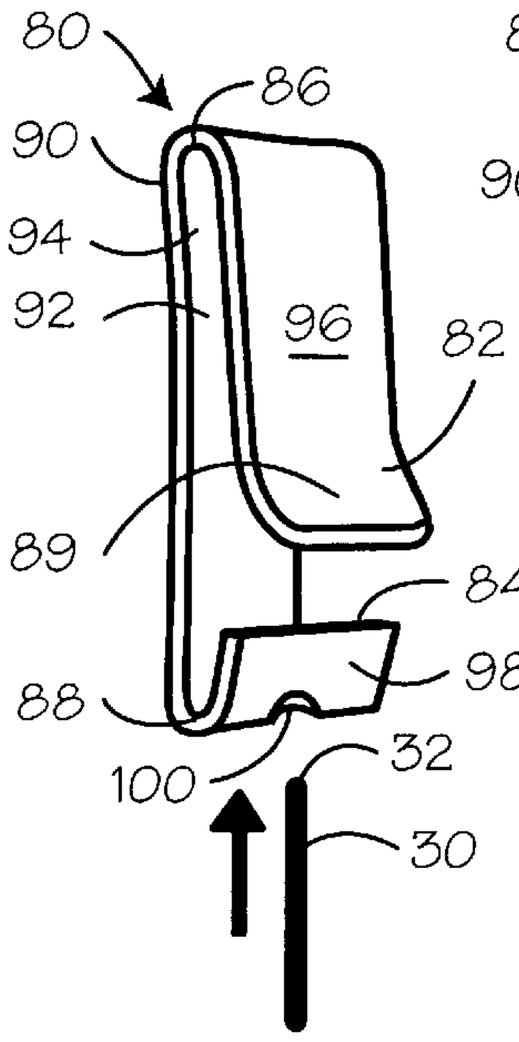


FIG. 3

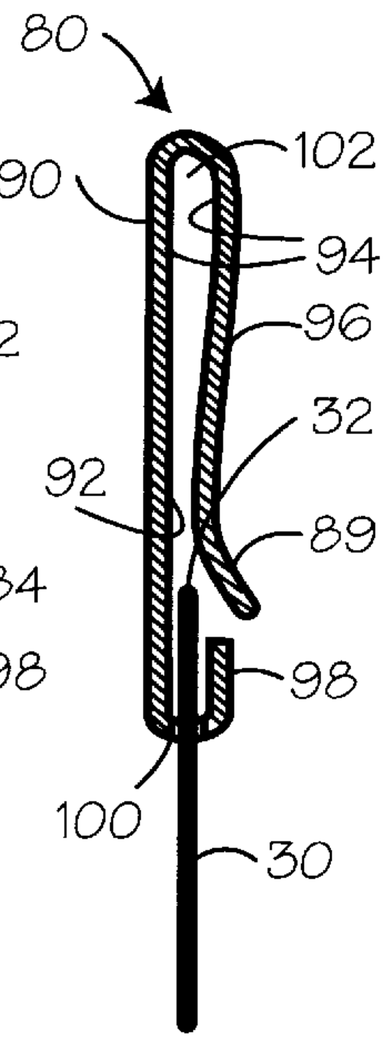


FIG. 4

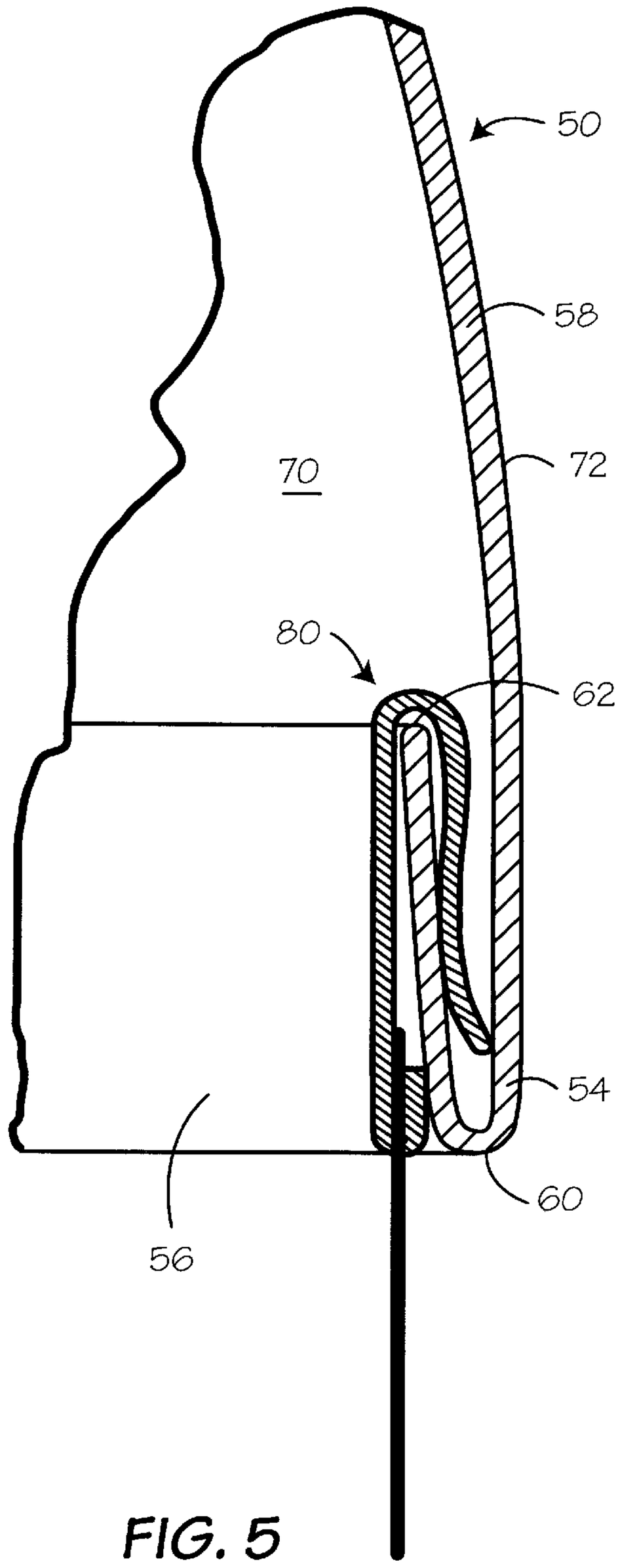


FIG. 5

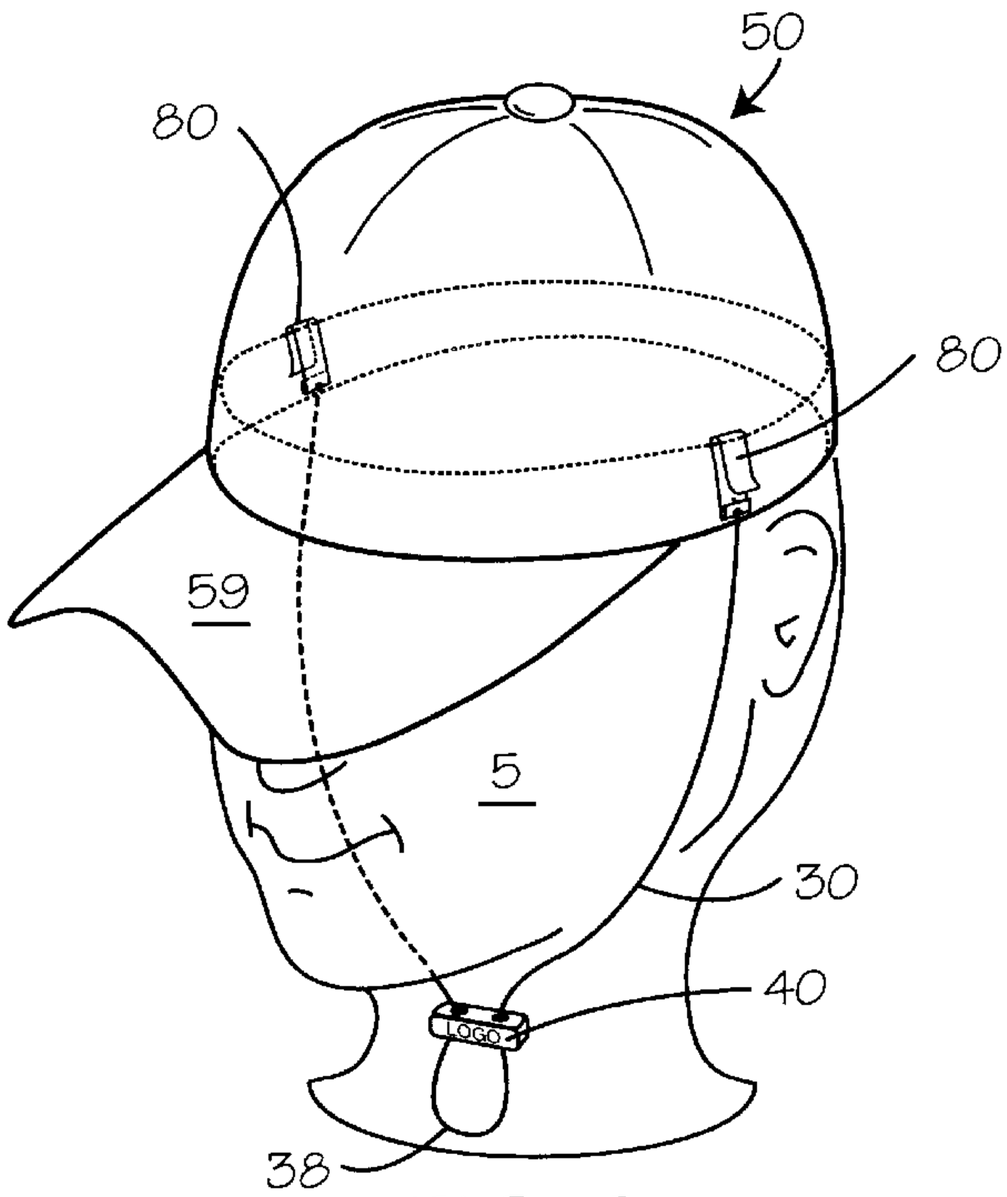


FIG. 6

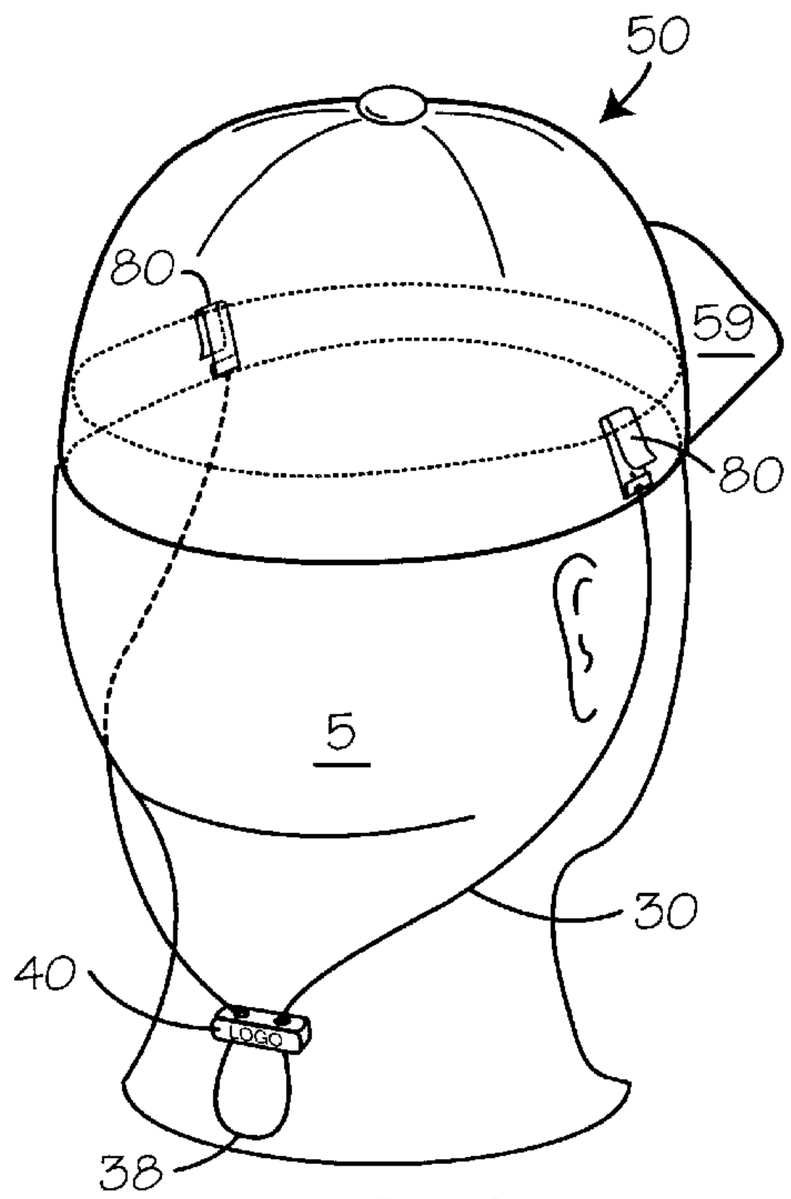


FIG. 7

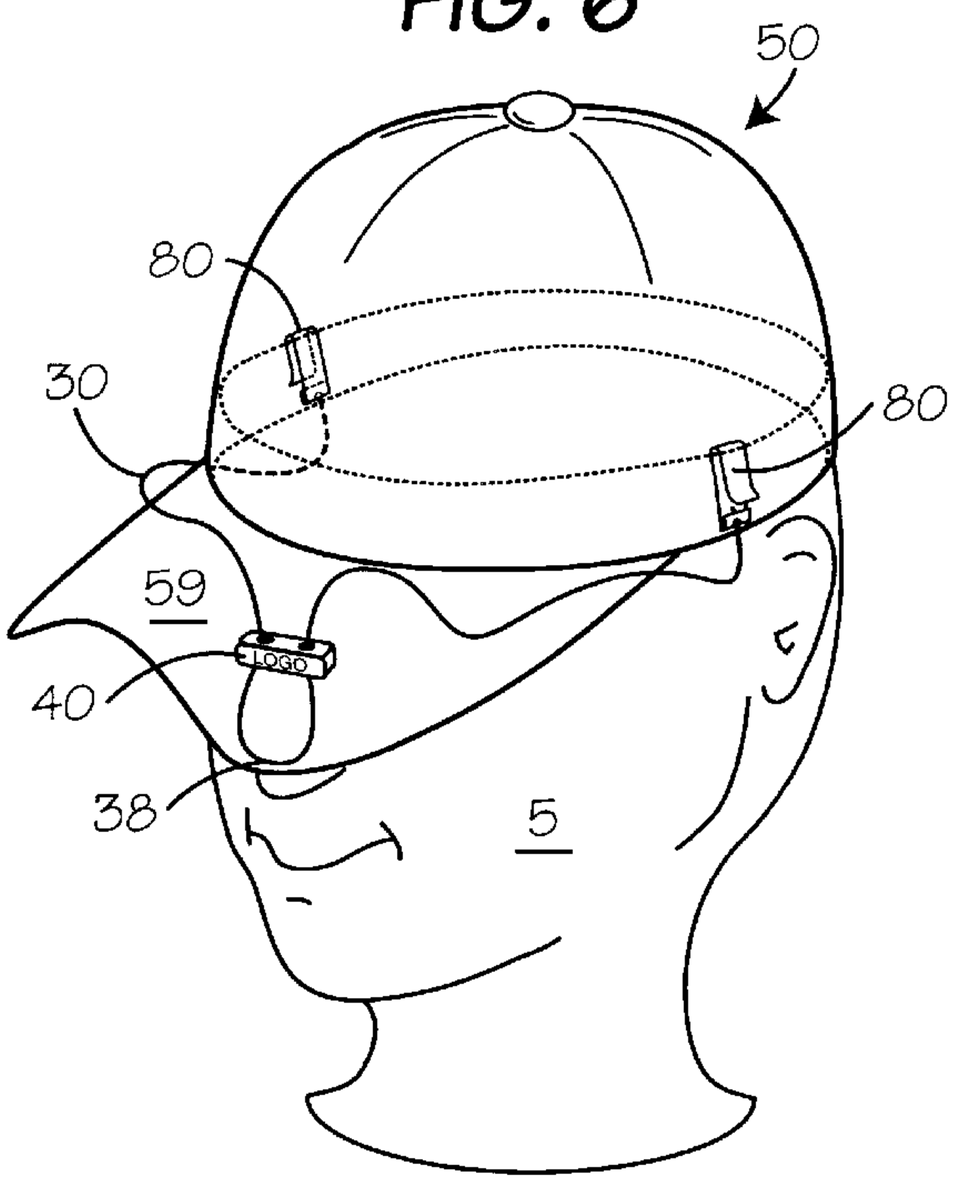


FIG. 8

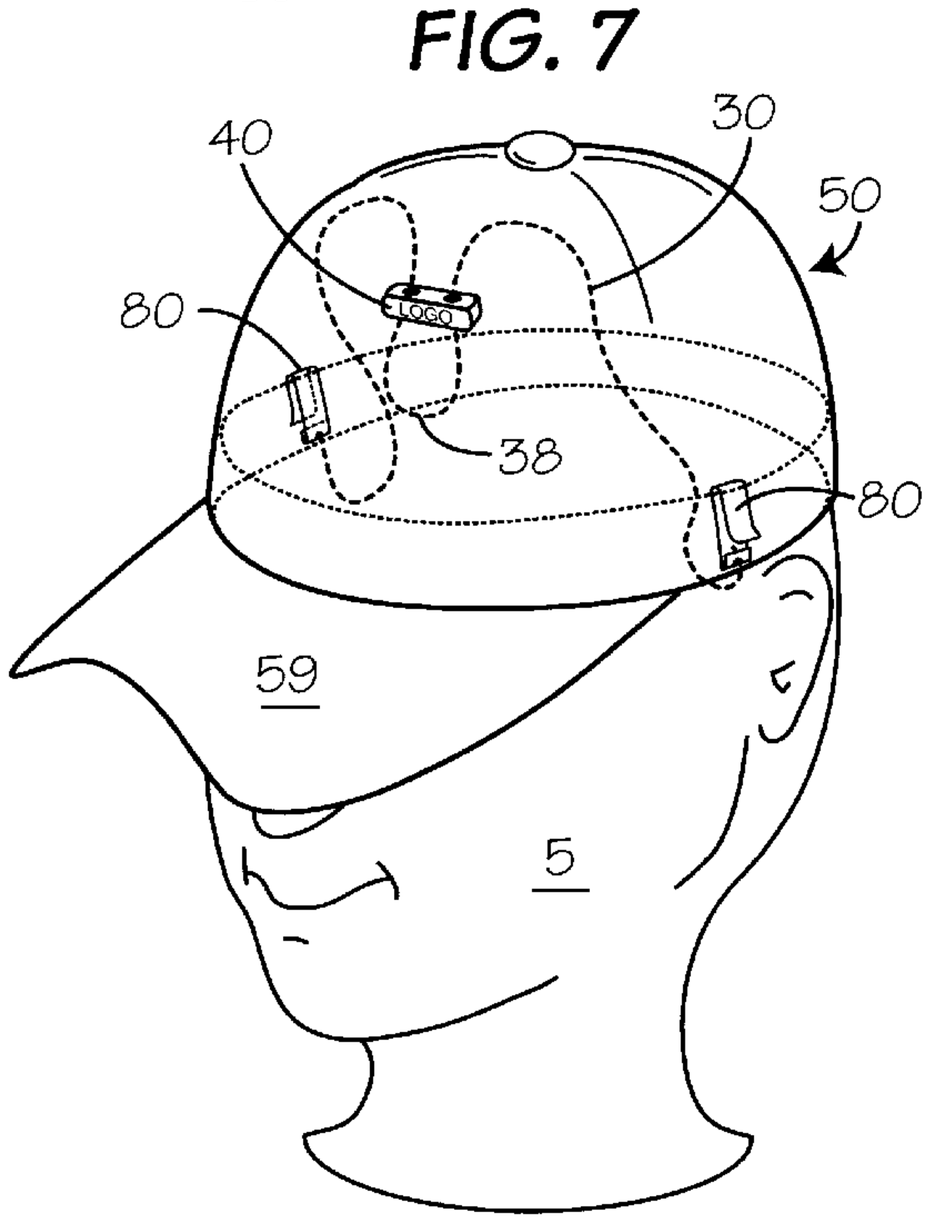


FIG. 9

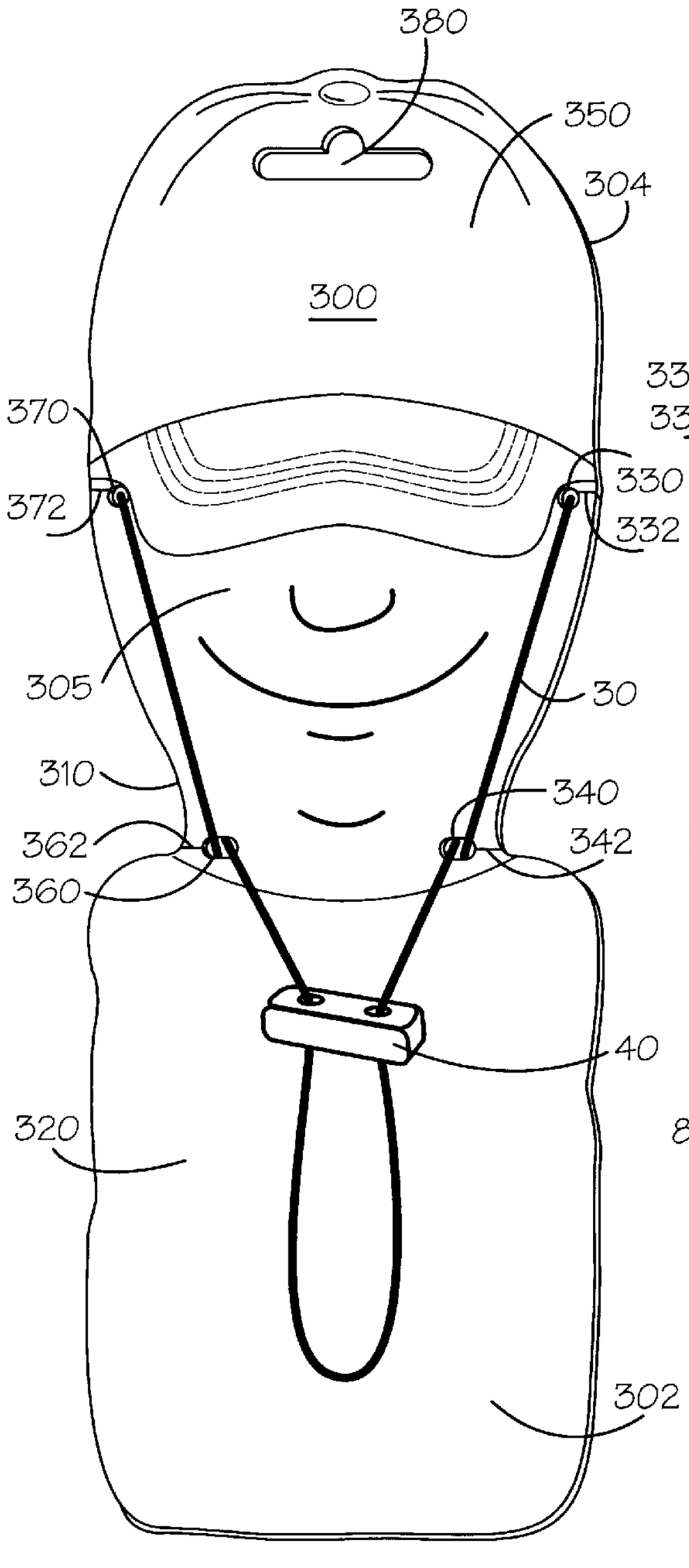
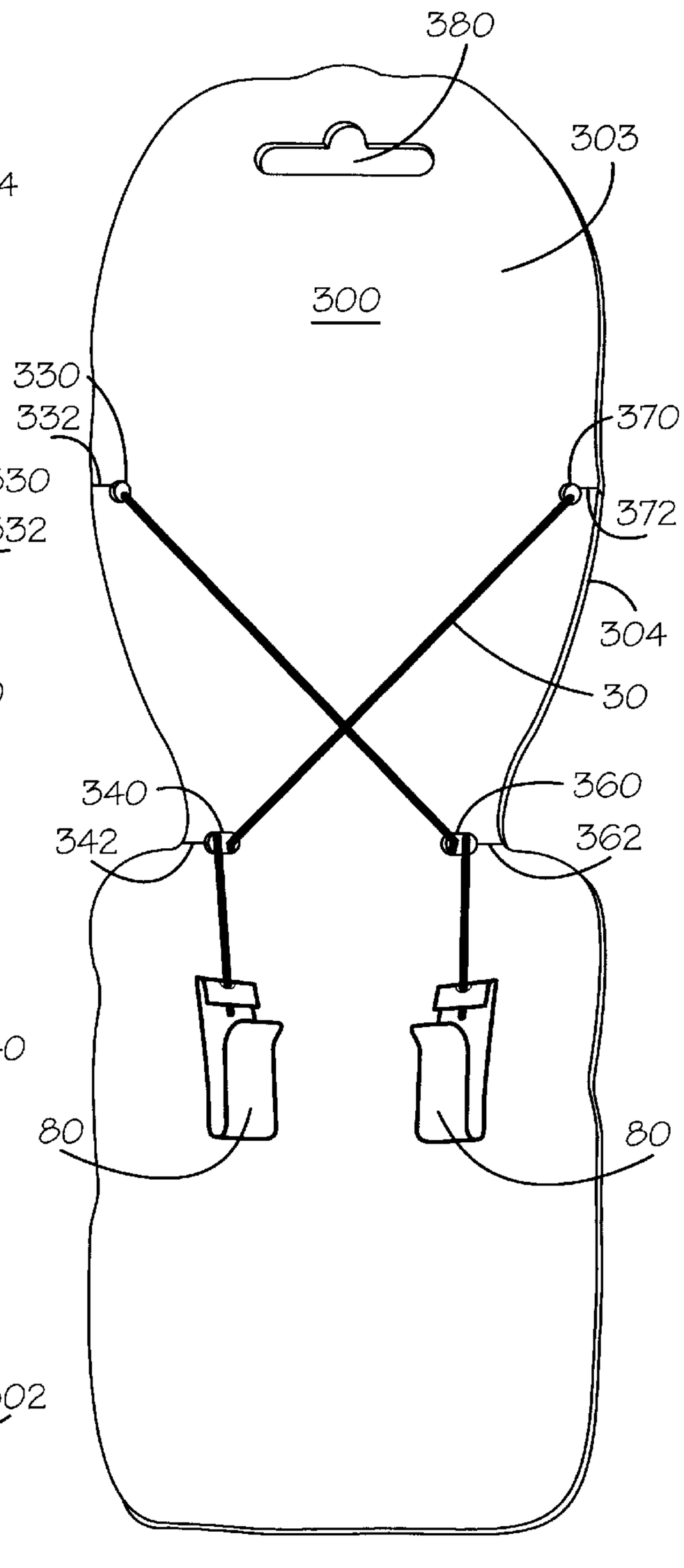

380
350
304
300
370
372
330
332
305
30
310
340
362
342
360
40
320
302
RIGHT

FIG. 10


380
303
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330
332
370
372
304
30
340
360
342
362
80
80
LEFT

FIG. 11

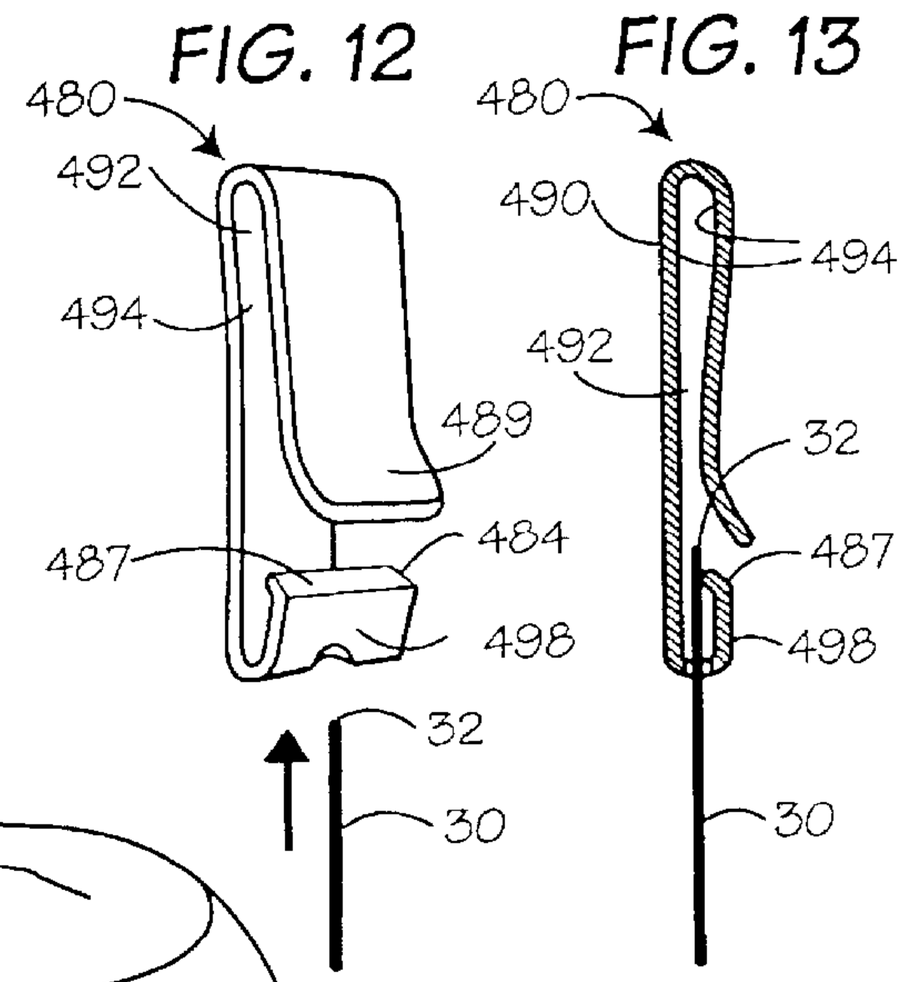

FIG. 12

FIG. 13

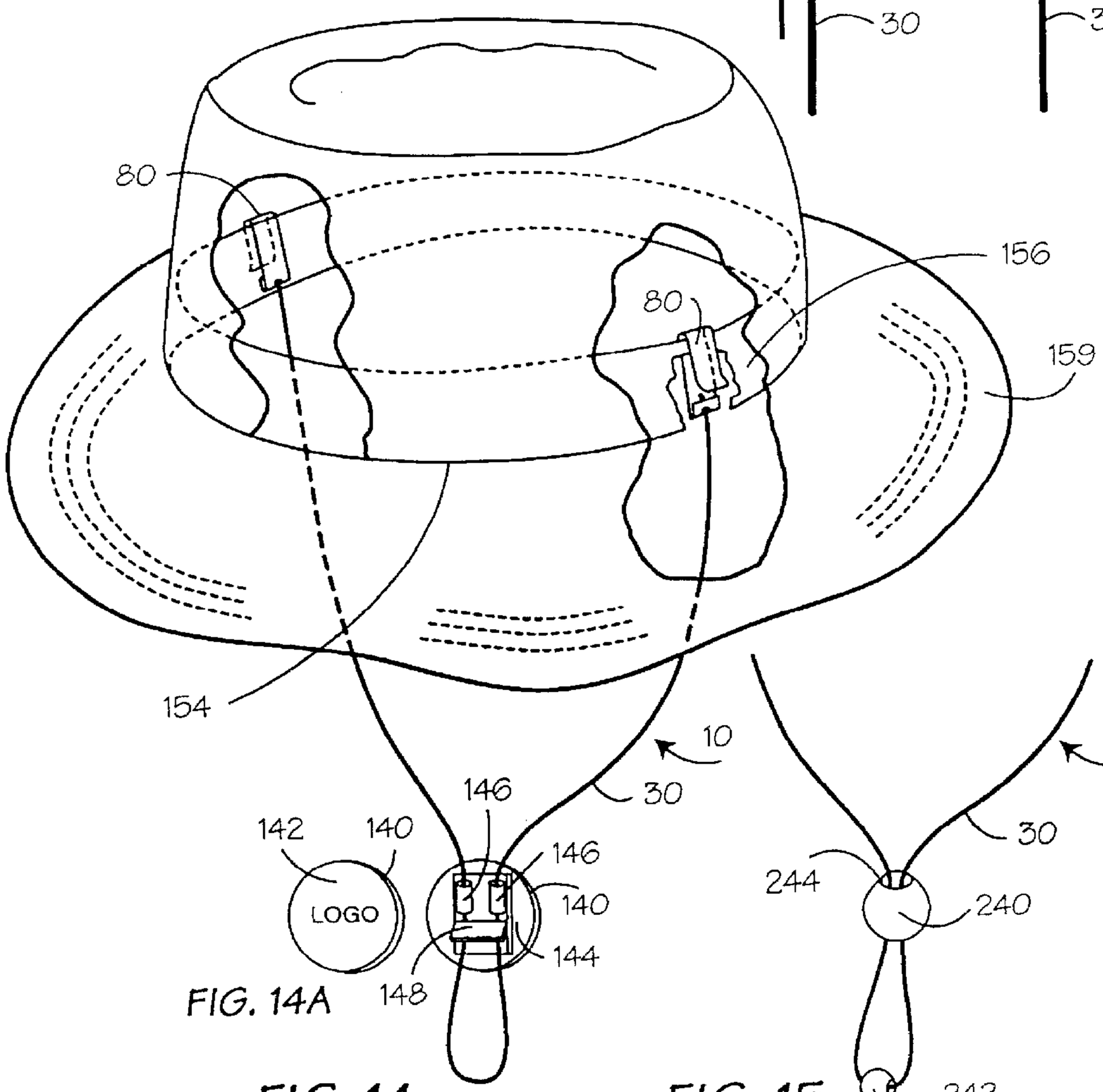

FIG. 14A

FIG. 14

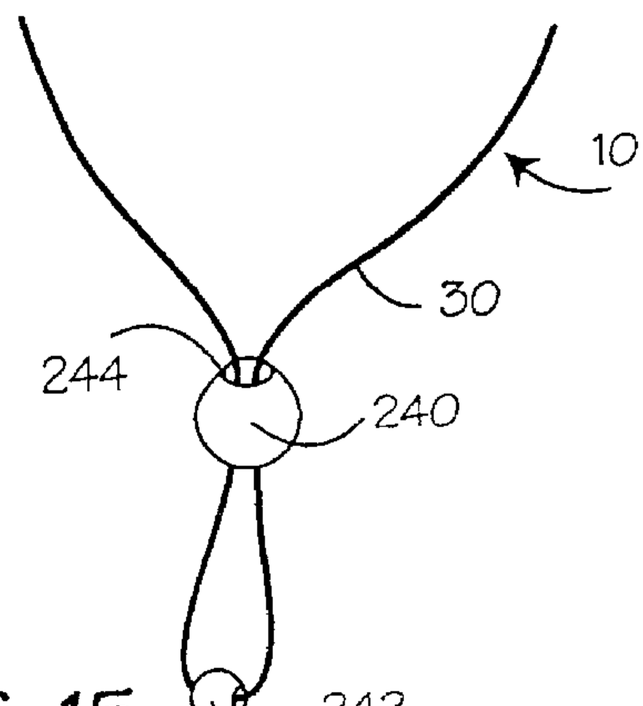

FIG. 15

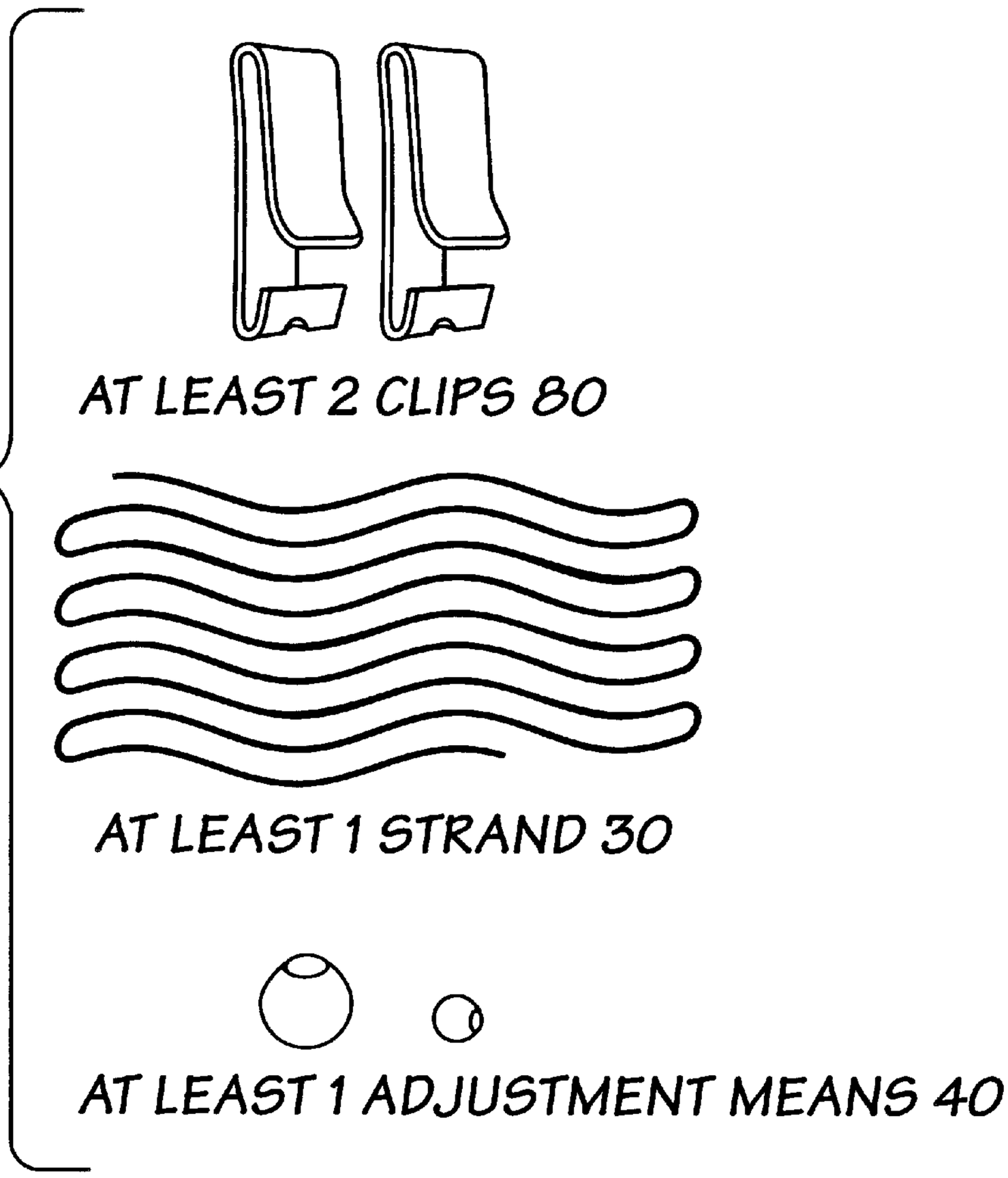
AT LEAST 2 CLIPS 80
400
AT LEAST 1 STRAND 30
AT LEAST 1 ADJUSTMENT MEANS 40

FIG. 16

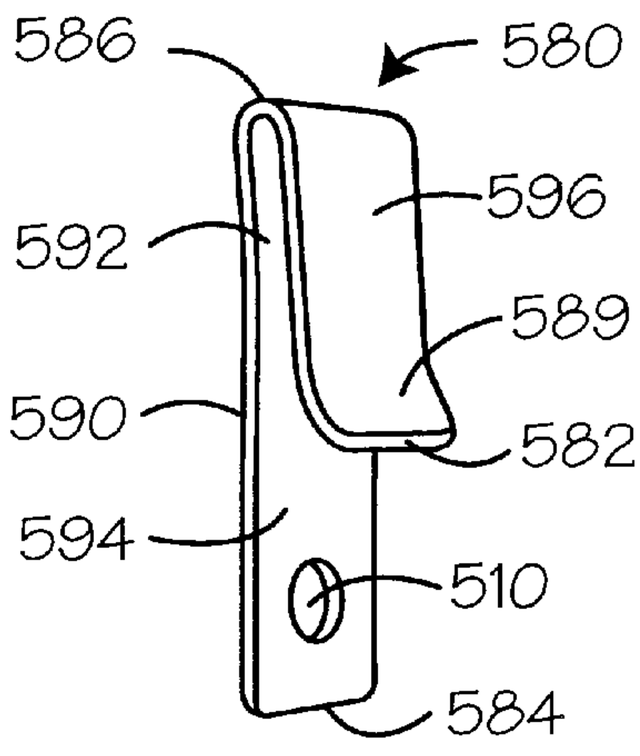
586
580
596
592
589
590
582
594
510
584

FIG. 17

CHIN STRAP FOR A CAP AND COMBINATION THEREOF

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to chin straps for head coverings. Specifically, the present invention relates to a chin strap which can be added to retrofit any cap or hat having an interior band in the base of the crown.

Hats and caps come in a multitude of shapes and styles which vary with intended use and with the wearer's sense of fashion. Although intended to protect the wearer's head from the elements and shield the wearer's eyes from the glare of the sun, often these head coverings are provided with no means for retaining the covering on the wearer's head. It is important to be able to retain a hat or cap in place especially for persons wearing a head covering during vigorous activities such as walking, biking, or playing tennis and golf. It is equally important for persons who want to maintain their head covering in place while out in strong winds or while riding in fast moving vehicles such as boats or convertible cars. Thus, it is very advantageous to be able to add a chin strap to head coverings which are not originally fabricated with one permanently attached. For instance, a classic baseball cap is used not only by ballplayers but also by active adults and children in a wide variety of activities. A baseball cap is not provided with any means of retaining the cap on the head or near the body in the event of a gust of wind or a sudden motion by the wearer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a chin strap which can be used to retrofit an existing head covering so as to provide a means to retain the head covering on the wearer's head. The inventive chin strap is secured to the interior band of the head covering by means of a clip mounted at each end of the strap portion. The clip slips over the interior band and is maintained in place by means of clip spring tension. A clip is mounted on both the left and right side of the interior band and the strap portion extends between the two clips. The strap portion is provided in a length which allows generous slack. The amount of slack in the strap portion is adjusted to the comfort of the wearer using a bead or adjustment clip mounted in the mid portion of the strap portion.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap which can be easily and quickly attached to and detached from any head covering which is constructed with an interior band. Each of the two ends of the chin strap are provided with a clip, and the clips are secured to the interior band without modification of or damage to the head covering.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap having clips for attaching to the interior band of a head covering, where the clips are flat in profile and without sharp edges or protrusions so as to be comfortable for the wearer.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap having clips for attaching to the interior band of a head covering, where the clips are provided with a width which minimizes pivoting of the clips on the interior band while in use.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap which is adjustable.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap wherein the means for adjustment is provided with at least one surface which is sized to allow the imprint of a logo or trademark so that the chin strap can be used as an advertising or promotional item.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap wherein the means for adjustment is provided with at least one surface which is sized to allow decoration or customizing so that the chin strap can be used as a clothing accessory or as an ornamental item.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap which incurs minimal manufacturing costs and is simple to assemble.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap which is combined with a novel packaging card, the combination chin strap and packaging card simultaneously showing the purchaser the product and illustrating its use on a hat or cap.

It is an object of this invention to provide a chin strap kit wherein the components which comprise the inventive chin strap are provided unassembled, allowing the user to create their own chin strap, for use as a craft or hobby item.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of the chin strap mounted on a cap with the cap partially cut away in the region of the clip to illustrate how the clip attaches to the interior band.

FIG. **2** is a partial perspective view of the cap showing detail of the cap interior band and attachment of the clip thereon, the directional arrow showing how the clip is slipped downward over the interior band of the cap.

FIG. **3** is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the clip illustrating the folded shape of the clip body and the through hole in the lower fold which receives the strap material, the arrow indicating the direction of insertion of the strap material into the through hole during fabrication.

FIG. **4** is a side sectional view of the preferred embodiment of the clip illustrating the strap material fully inserted into the through hole in the lower fold, and the lower flange crimped against the body portion of the clip to retain the strap material within the lower flange and prevent it from retracting from the through hole.

FIG. **5** is a partial perspective view of the base of the cap and side sectional view of the clip mounted within the cap, illustrating the relationship of the clip to the interior band when the clip is mounted on the interior band.

FIG. **6** is a front perspective view of the cap and chin strap, illustrating the preferred wearing configuration wherein the chin strap is placed under the wearer's chin.

FIG. **7** is a rear perspective view of the cap and chin strap, illustrating a second possible wearing configuration wherein the chin strap is placed behind the wearer's head so as to rest on the back of the neck.

FIG. **8** is a front perspective view of the cap and chin strap, illustrating a third possible wearing configuration wherein the chin strap is placed upon the upper side of the cap visor.

FIG. **9** is a front perspective view of the cap and chin strap, illustrating a fourth possible wearing configuration wherein the chin strap (shown in phantom) is placed within the crown of the cap.

FIG. **10** is a front view of the chin strap mounted on a packaging card, the indicia on the card showing a human head, neck, and partial human shirt and showing a cap being worn on the head, the chin strap being mounted on the packaging card in a manner which illustrates its function.

FIG. **11** is a rear view of the chin strap mounted on the packaging card of FIG. **10**, illustrating the plurality of holes

and slits perforating the card to allow the chin strap to be mounted to the card in the preferred manner.

FIG. **12** is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the clip illustrating the folded shape of the clip body and the through hole in the lower fold which receives the strap material, the arrow indicating the direction of insertion of the strap material into the through hole during fabrication.

FIG. **13** is a side sectional view of the second embodiment of the clip illustrating the strap material fully inserted into the through hole in the lower fold, and the modified lower flange crimped against the body portion of the clip to retain the strap material within the lower flange and prevent it from retracting from the through hole.

FIG. **14** is a front perspective view of the chin strap mounted on a hat having a full brim, with the hat partially cut away in the region of the clip to illustrate how the clip attaches to the interior band, illustrating that the inventive chin strap may be used on a variety of head coverings, and also showing a rear view of an alternative means for adjusting the slack in the chin strap.

FIG. **14A** is a front view of the alternative means for adjusting the slack in the chin strap illustrated in FIG. **14**, illustrating how a logo or other decorative indicia may be employed thereon.

FIG. **15** is a partial view of the chin strap illustrating a second alternative means for adjusting the slack in the chin strap.

FIG. **16** is an example of the preferred embodiment of a chin strap kit, illustrating the minimum unassembled components which would be included therein.

FIG. **17** is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of a clip for inclusion in a kit.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The inventive chin strap can be used to retrofit any existing head covering that is fabricated with an interior band within the crown. The chin strap will be described below as being used with a baseball cap, but it is well within the scope of the invention to use the inventive chin strap with any style head covering.

In general, cap **50**, shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **5**, is fabricated having a crown **58** and a visor **59**, where the crown **58** is generally hemispherical in shape. The crown **58** has a hollow interior, this hollow interior being the portion of the cap which fits about the upper portion of the head of the wearer **5**. The crown **58** has an interior surface **70** and an exterior surface **72**, and is provided with an apex **52** and a generally circular base **54**.

The crown **58** of the cap is also provided with an interior band **56** which results from the inward folding of the peripheral edge of the crown. The interior band **56** extends upward toward the apex **52** and overlies and confronts the interior surface **70** of the crown **58** adjacent to the circular base **54**.

The interior band **56** has a terminal or free edge **62** and a fold edge **60**, wherein the fold edge **60** of the interior band **56** consists of the portion of the crown **58** which corresponds to the folding of the peripheral edge of the crown **58**. The exterior surface **72** of the crown **58** immediately adjacent to the fold edge **60** defines the generally circular base **54**.

The interior band **56** terminates within the hollow interior of the crown **58** at the free edge **62**, the free edge **62** being adjacent to but spaced apart from the fold edge **60**. This spacing of the free edge **62** and the fold edge **60** defines the height of the interior band **56**.

Cap **50** is provided with a visor **59** which extends laterally outwardly from a portion of the exterior surface **72** of the generally circular base **54** of the crown **58**. When cap **50** is worn, the visor **59** is placed adjacent to the forehead of the wearer **5**, and is intended to shield the wearer's eyes from the sun and other weather elements. Other styles of head coverings are provided with additional visors or a brim **159**, where a brim is a lateral outward extension which completely surrounds the generally circular base **154** (FIG. **14**). It is understood that the inventive chin strap **10** can be used with any style of head covering regardless of the size and style of the visor **59** or brim **159**, as long as the head covering is fabricated having an interior band **56**, **156**.

As illustrated in FIG. **1**, chin strap **10** comprises an elongate flexible strand **30** of material having a first end **32**, a second end **34**, and a mid portion **36** which extends between the first end **32** and the second end **34**. In the preferred embodiment, strand **30** is formed from a durable natural or synthetic twine. It is well within the scope of the invention, however, to form strand **30** from another material or combination of materials which include, but are not limited to, leather, wire, chain, plastic, strings of beads, webbing, etc. The material chosen must meet the utilitarian requirements of having a moderate tensile strength, but may also be provided in a wide range of decorative styles to meet any aesthetic requirements of the wearer **5**.

In the preferred embodiment, strand **30** is formed having a diameter of approximately 2 mm and an approximate length of 20 inches. This length was determined to be optimal for use by an average adult since it was long enough to allow the wearer **5** to easily pass chin strap **10** over the head, but was also short enough to be easily stored on visor **59** without overhang, as shown in FIG. **8**. It is within the scope of the invention, however, to vary these dimensions to accommodate different material selections and to achieve different visual effects. Additionally, length of strand **30** may be varied to accommodate different sized users. For example, a shorter length may be required for a younger wearer.

Each respective first end **32** and second end **34** of chin strap **10** is secured to the interior band **56** by means of a clip **80** (FIGS. **3**, **4**). Clip **80** is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, the elongate sheet having a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width. The elongate sheet has a first end **84**, a second end **82**, and a body portion **92** which extends along the length between the first end **84** and the second end **82**. The body portion **92** of the elongate sheet is provided with an inner surface **94** and an outer surface **90**. In the preferred embodiment, clip **80** is formed from metal, most preferably steel. It is, however, well within the scope of the invention to form clip **80** from other materials, which include, but are not limited to, plastics and composite materials. The material selected must be capable of being formed into the desired shape, provide some spring tension when slightly deformed, and be corrosion resistant. Additionally, clip **80** may be fabricated as a metal form having a plastic coating so as to provide clip **80** with protection against corrosion and to give increased comfort to the wearer **5**.

Body portion **92** of clip **80** is formed having a first fold **88** adjacent to but spaced apart a first distance from the first end **84**, the first fold **88** resulting in the first end **84** being folded back so as to overlie and confront the inner surface **94** of the body portion **92** to form a first flange **98**.

Body portion **92** of clip **80** is formed having a second fold **86** adjacent to but spaced apart a second distance from the

second end **82**, the second fold **86** resulting in the second end **82** being folded back so as to overlie and confront the inner surface **94** of the body portion **92** to form a second flange **96**, the second distance being sized such that the second end **82** generally abuts the first end **84**.

Body portion **92** is provided with a through hole **100** which extends between the inner surface **94** and the outer surface **90**, such that it coincides with the first fold **88**. Through hole **100** is dimensioned to fittingly receive one of the respective first or second ends **32**, **34** of the strand **30** therethrough. Strand **30** is retained between first flange **98** and the inner surface **94** of the body portion **92** by crimping the first flange **98** and inner surface **94** together with strand **30** sandwiched therebetween. In an alternative embodiment (FIGS. **12** and **13**), first end **484** is provided with an inward bend **487** along its entire width such that the first end **484** is angled inward toward the inner surface **494** of the body portion **492**. Inward bend **487** is intended to provide additional gripping of the end **32**, **34** of strand **30** to ensure retention of the strand **30** within the clip **480**.

Second end **82** of body portion **92** is provided with an outward bend **89** along its entire width such that second end **82** is spaced apart from both the inner surface **94** of the body portion **92** and from the first end **82**. Outward bend **89** allows the second flange **96** to be easily inserted between the interior band **56** and the inner surface **70** of the crown **58** and also serves to guide the free edge **62** of the interior band **56** into the recess **102** between the second flange **96** and the inner surface **94** of clip **80**. When in use, the interior band **56** of cap **50** is maintained between the second flange **96** and the body portion **92** of clip **80** by means of spring tension. This spring tension results from the slight deflection of second flange **96** away from body portion **92** due to the insertion of interior band **56**. This spring tension is adequate to fully retain clip **80** on interior band **56**, but does not damage or modify cap **50** in any way.

Clip **80** is provided in a width that is optimized to minimize pivoting of clip **80** about interior band **56** when in use and to optimize comfort for the wearer **5**. In the preferred embodiment, clip **80** has a finished overall length of approximately 1.125 inches and overall width of approximately 0.375 inches. In this embodiment, first flange **98** has an approximate length of 0.25 inches, and second flange **96** has an approximate length of 0.875 inches. These dimensions have been determined to provide a clip **80** which fits a typical adult cap **50**. It is well within the scope of this invention, however, to provide clip **80** with dimensions which vary from those described above. For example, the dimensions of clip **80** may be scaled down to accommodate youth and infant sized head coverings, or may be scaled up to accommodate head coverings of different styles or different interior band widths.

Mid portion **36** of strand **30** extends between the two clips **80**. Mid portion **36** is provided in a length which allows generous slack. This slack allows chin strap **10** to be easily and comfortably placed over the wearer's head **5** when dressing and when in use. The amount of slack in the mid portion **36** is adjusted to the comfort of the wearer by an adjustment means such as a bead **40** mounted in the mid portion **36**. The adjustment means varies the slack in strand **30**, or the shortest distance along strand **30** between first end **32** and second end **34**, by gathering together and securing a section of mid portion **36**. As shown in FIG. **1**, the greater the distance of strand center **38** from the adjustment means (shown as bead **40**), the less slack in strand **30**. Conversely, the greatest possible slack in strand **30** will be obtained when the adjustment means has gathered and secured a minimal section of mid portion **36**, as when strand center **38** is adjacent to the adjustment means.

Bead **40** is provided with at least two through holes **42**, **44**. Strand **30** is serially laced through each hole **42**, **44** such that the mid portion **36** of strand **30** resides within said bead. Bead **40** is preferably formed from plastic, but it is within the scope of the invention to form bead **40** from other materials which include, but are not limited to, bone, stone, metal, glass, and leather. Bead **40** is illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **6–10** as rectangular in shape, but may be provided in other shapes, which include, but are not limited to, spherical, elliptical, disk, and irregular. The exterior surface **46** of bead **40** may be smooth or rough, planar or contoured, or combinations thereof. The appearance of bead **40** can be varied to suit a variety of targeted consumers. In the preferred embodiment, the exterior surface **46** of the bead **40** is provided with at least one exterior surface portion **47** which is formed of a length and width which is sized to allow indicia **48** to be imprinted thereon. In this way, the imprint of a logo or trademark can be prominently displayed on chin strap **10** so that chin strap **10** can be used as an advertising or promotional item.

Although bead **40** is the preferred means of adjustment, it is well within the scope of this invention to use other adjustment means which are well known in the art. An example of other adjustment means includes, but is not limited to, first alternative adjustment clip **140**. Adjustment clip **140**, illustrated in FIG. **14**, is similar to a bolo tie clip and is comprised of a flat disk having a first face **142** which is decorative and may concurrently be used to present an advertisement or logo. Adjustment clip **140** has a second face **144**, opposed to first face **142**, which has two channels **146** formed thereon to receive strand **30**. Compression bar **148** is adjacent to channels **146** and is used to maintain the position of strand **30** in channels **146**.

A second alternative adjustment means **240**, **242** is illustrated in FIG. **15**. Primary bead **240** is provided with a single through hole **244**. Strand **30** is inserted through single through hole **244** in a first direction and then is passed through a secondary bead **242**. Strand **30** is then reinserted through single through hole **244** of primary bead **240** in a second direction, where the second direction is opposed to the first direction. Strand **30** is prevented from completely disengaging from primary bead **240** because secondary bead **242** is sized to be larger than the diameter of single through hole **244**.

In use, chin strap **10** is retrofitted to the head covering by mounting each clip **80** to the interior band **56** of the head covering such that each clip **80** is located at the lateral side of the head covering corresponding to the region adjacent to the wearer's ears. Note that when attached correctly, the smooth, flat outer surface **90** of clip **80** lies facing the wearer's head, so that the presence of the clips on cap **50** is not noticeable to the wearer. FIG. **6** illustrates the preferred mode of using chin strap **10** with cap **50**. In this figure, chin strap **10** extends downward from cap **50** such that center **38** of mid portion **36** of strand **30** is positioned generally below the wearer's chin. Bead **40** is adjusted along strand **30** to take up the slack in an amount which depends on the comfort of the wearer and environmental conditions, noting that chin strap **30** need not be adjusted tightly for effective function. That is, bead **40** may need to be adjusted close to the wearer's chin and neck to minimize slack in severe wind conditions, However, the same user may prefer a more loose adjustment in milder conditions, allowing bead **40** to rest lower on the neck.

FIGS. **7–9** illustrate alternative modes of using chin strap **10** with cap **50**. These modes are consistent with storing chin

strap **10** when its use is not required, or with using chin strap **10** as a clothing accessory or decoration. These figures illustrate that detachment of chin strap **10** is not required when it is not in use. In FIG. **7**, mid portion **36** extends downward from cap **50** such that center **38** of mid portion **36** is positioned behind the wearer's head such that bead **40** is located adjacent the back of the wearer's neck. FIG. **8** illustrates the mid portion **36** of strand **30**, including bead **40**, resting on the upper portion of visor **59**. The configurations of FIG. **7** and FIG. **8** allow chin strap **10** to be maintained out of the way of the wearer and or to be worn as a decorative accessory. FIG. **9** illustrates the mid portion **36** of strand **30**, including bead **40**, tucked up within the crown **58** of cap **50**.

Chin strap **10** will be presented using a novel packaging card **300** as illustrated in FIGS. **10** and **11**. Rigid packaging card **300** is provided with a front surface **302**, a back surface **303**, and with a shaped peripheral edge **304** which corresponds to the outline of a human head, human neck and a portion of a human torso adjacent to said neck, and includes the outline of a head covering on the human head. The front surface **302** is provided with indicia in the form of a human face **305**, indicia in the form of a cap **350** mounted on the head above the face **305**, indicia in the form of a human neck **310** extending below the face **305**, and indicia in the form of a partial human shirt **320** extending below the neck **310**. For the purposes of illustration, the indicia in the form of a cap **350** is shown herein as a baseball cap. It is understood, however, that indicia in the form of a cap **350** may also be shown as a golf cap, a fisherman's hat, a cowboy hat, or any other style of head covering which may benefit from the addition of a chin strap. The portions of packaging card **300** which correspond to said human head, human neck, and a portion of a human torso adjacent to said neck provide a support structure for chin strap **10** and simultaneously presents the invention and illustrates its use.

Packaging card **300** is provided with a plurality of through holes **330**, **340**, **360**, **370**, said plurality of through holes **330**, **340**, **360**, **370** being strategically placed upon the packaging card **300** such that when chin strap **10** is mounted within said plurality of through holes **330**, **340**, **360**, **370** chin strap **10** appears to be fixed to the indicia on the front surface **302** of the packaging card **300** in a manner which simulates the appearance of the chin strap **10** in use. Preferably, packaging card **300** is provided with at least two through holes **330**, **370**. Most preferably, packaging card **300** is provided with four through holes **330**, **340**, **360**, **370**.

These four through holes comprise a first through hole **330**, a second through hole **340**, a third through hole **360**, and a fourth through hole **370**. First through hole **330** is positioned adjacent to the shaped peripheral edge **304** at the position corresponding to the indicia of the left side of the human face **305** at the position where the indicia of the left side of the human face **305** intersects the indicia of the left side of the baseball cap **350**. Second through hole **340** is positioned adjacent to the shaped peripheral edge **304** at the position corresponding to the indicia of the left side of the human neck **310** at the position where the indicia of the left side of the human neck **310** intersects the indicia of the left side of a portion of a human shirt **320**. Third through hole **360** is positioned adjacent to the shaped peripheral edge **304** at the position corresponding to the indicia of the right side of the human neck **310** at the position where indicia of the right side of the human neck **310** intersects the indicia of the right side of the portion of a human shirt **320**. Fourth through hole **370** is positioned adjacent to the shaped peripheral edge **304** at the position corresponding to the indicia of the right side of the human face **305** at the position where the indicia of the right side of the human face **305** intersects the indicia of the right side of the baseball cap **350**.

Slits **332**, **342**, **362**, **372** extend completely through card **300** and join peripheral edge **304** and the respective through holes **330**, **340**, **360**, **370**, allowing a preassembled chin strap **10** to be mounted to the card **300**. Chin strap **10** is mounted within said plurality of through holes **330**, **340**, **360**, **370** such that the adjustment means, bead **40**, is mounted on the front surface **302** of the packaging card **300**, and such that clips **80** are mounted on the back surface **303**.

Mounting slot **380** is an elongate perforation located adjacent to the upper edge of packaging card **300** which is used to receive a rod style hanger for mounting packaging card **300** on a display rack. Although this is the preferred method for mounting packaging card **300** on a display rack, it is understood that other conventional methods of mounting packaging cards may be substituted for mounting slot **380**.

Chin strap **10** may be provided in unassembled form as a kit for use in craft making. As illustrated in FIG. **16**, kit **400** includes at least enough components to form one chin strap. For example, a kit containing the minimum elements would include two clips **80**, one strand **30**, and one adjustment means **40**. Instructions would also be included and would detail assembly of chin strap **10** and the use of household tools to crimp or otherwise secure strand **30** within clips **80**. It is also within the scope of the invention to include a crimping tool in kit **400**. In the preferred embodiment, kit **400** includes enough components to form at least three chin straps of varying styles. That is, the preferred kit **400** would include at least three pair (or six) clips **80**, three strands **30**, and three adjustment means **40**.

The three strands **30** may be identical, or may be different from each other in color, texture, and or style. For example, kit **400** may include a leather strand, a nylon twine strand, and a metal chain strand, or some other combination of strands formed from suitable materials. The three adjustment means **40** may be identical, or different from each other in color, texture, size, or style. For example, kit **400** may include a single, two-hole bead, two single hole beads, and a bolo-tie type clip, or some other combination of suitable adjustment devices. Different kits **400** would be configured having components of color, sizes, and styles which would appeal to specific consumers. One type of kit would appeal to adolescents while a different kit would appeal to active adults. Additional components may be added to kits which would more clearly appeal to these various consumer groups. Additional components may include, but are not limited to, items for decorating the adjustment means **40** and or clips **80**, such as paint, glitter, stickers, sea shells, ribbon, and faux jewels. Additional components may also include, but are not limited to, items for decorating the strand **30** such as charms or faux jewels.

An alternative kit may be provided with a modified clip **580** which does not require a crimping tool. Clip **580**, like clip **80**, is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, the elongate sheet having a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width. The elongate sheet has a first end **584**, a second end **582**, and a body portion **592** which extends along the length between the first end **584** and the second end **582**. The body portion **592** of the elongate sheet is provided with an inner surface **594** and an outer surface **590**.

Body portion **592** of clip **80** is formed having a fold **586** adjacent to but spaced apart a distance from the second end

582, the fold 586 resulting in the second end 582 being folded back so as to overlie and confront the inner surface 594 of the body portion 592 to form flange 596, the distance being sized to be approximately that of the second flange 96 of clip 80.

Body portion 592 is provided with a through hole 510 which extends between the inner surface 594 and the outer surface 590. Through hole 510 is located adjacent to first end 584 such that it lies between first end 584 and flange 596, and is dimensioned to fittingly receive one of the respective first or second ends 32, 34 of the strand 30 therethrough. Strand 30 is retained within through hole 510 by knotting the respective first or second ends 32, 34.

Second end 582 of body portion 592 is provided with an outward bend 589 along its entire width such that second end 582 is spaced apart from both the inner surface 594 of the body portion 592 and from the first end 582. Outward bend 589 allows flange 596 to be easily inserted between the interior band 56 and the inner surface 70 of the crown 58 and also serves to guide the free edge 62 of the interior band 56 into the recess between flange 596 and the inner surface 594 of clip 580. When in use, the interior band 56 of cap 50 is maintained between flange 596 and the body portion 592 of clip 580 by means of spring tension. This spring tension results from the slight deflection of flange 596 away from body portion 592 due to the insertion of interior band 56. This spring tension is adequate to fully retain clip 580 on interior band 56, but does not damage or modify cap 50 in any way.

I claim:

1. A combination hat and chin strap,

wherein the hat comprises a crown portion, the crown portion being generally hemispherical in shape and having a hollow interior such that the crown portion comprises an interior surface and an exterior surface, the crown portion further comprising an apex and a generally circular base,

the crown portion further comprising a band, said band resulting from the inward folding of the peripheral edge of the crown portion such that the band extends toward said apex and overlies and confronts the interior surface of the crown portion adjacent to said base, said band comprising a free edge and a fold edge,

wherein said fold edge of said band consists of the portion of said crown portion which corresponds to the folding of the peripheral edge of the crown portion, said fold edge defining said generally circular base,

wherein said band terminates within said hollow interior of said crown portion at said free edge, said free edge being adjacent to but spaced apart from said fold edge such that said band has a height,

wherein said chin strap comprises an elongate flexible strand having a first end, a second end, and a mid portion which extends between said first end and said second end,

said chin strap being secured to said band by means of a clip, wherein two of said clips are used such that a clip is provided for each of said first and second ends, respectively, of said chin strap,

said chin strap further comprising a length which allows slack in said strand when said strand is secured to said band by means of said clip.

2. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 1 wherein said chin strap further comprises an adjustment means for adjusting said slack in said strand to the comfort of the wearer.

3. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 2 wherein said adjustment means comprises a primary bead, said primary bead having at least one through hole, said elongate flexible strand extending through said at least one through hole such that said mid portion of said elongate flexible strand resides within said bead.

4. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 3 wherein said adjustment means further comprises a secondary bead,

said secondary bead having a secondary bead through hole and said secondary bead having a diameter which is greater than the diameter of said at least one through hole of said primary bead,

said primary bead having a single through hole such that when assembled, said elongate flexible strand is inserted through said single through hole of said primary bead in a first direction and then is passed through said secondary bead through hole of said secondary bead, then said elongate flexible strand is then reinserted through said single through hole of said primary bead in a second direction, where the second direction is opposed to the first direction such that said elongate flexible strand is prevented from completely disengaging from said primary bead because of the presence of said secondary bead about said mid portion of said elongate flexible strand.

5. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 2 wherein said adjustment means comprises a bead, said bead having at least two through holes, said elongate flexible strand extending serially through each of said at least two through holes such that said mid portion of said elongate flexible strand resides within said bead.

6. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 2 wherein said adjustment means comprises a primary bead, said primary bead having an exterior surface, said primary bead further comprising indicia formed on the exterior surface thereof.

7. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 2 wherein said elongate flexible strand is comprised of a material selected from the group which includes natural fiber twines synthetic twine, leather, and webbing.

8. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 1 wherein said clip is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, said elongate sheet comprising a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width, said elongate sheet comprising a first end, a second end, and a body portion which extends along said length between said first end and said second end, said body portion of said elongate sheet comprising an inner surface and an outer surface,

said body portion being provided with a first fold adjacent to but spaced apart a first distance from said first end, said first fold resulting in said first end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a first flange,

said body portion being provided with a second fold adjacent to but spaced apart a second distance from said second end, said second fold resulting in said second end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a second flange, said second distance being sized such that said second end abuts said first end,

said body portion being provided with a through hole which extends between said inner surface of said body portion and said outer surface of said body portion, said through hole being located in said first fold, said through hole being dimensioned to fittingly receive said elongate flexible strand therethrough.

9. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 8 wherein said first flange is crimped against said inner surface of said body portion such that said elongate flexible strand is permanently retained between said first flange and said inner surface of said body portion.

10. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 9 wherein said first end of said body portion is provided with a bend along its entire width such that said first end is angled toward said inner surface of said body portion.

11. The combination hat and chin strap of claim 10 wherein said second end of said body portion is provided with a bend along its entire width such that said second end is spaced apart from both said inner surface of said body portion and from said first end, said bend in said second end allowing said second flange to be easily inserted between said band and said inner surface of said crown, so that when in use said band of said hat is maintained between said second flange and said body portion of said clip.

12. A strap for retaining head coverings in adjacency to the head, said strap comprising a first clip, a second clip, and a strand portion extending between said first clip and said second clip,

wherein each of said first clip and said second clip is provided with a means for securement to a head covering and a means for securement to said strand portion,

wherein said strand portion comprises a strand first end, a strand second end, and a strand mid portion which extends between said strand first end and said strand second end,

said strand portion further comprising a length which allows slack in said strand portion when said strand portion is secured to said head covering by means of said first clip and said second clip,

wherein said strand portion further comprises an adjustment means located in the mid portion thereof for use in adjustment of said slack in said strand portion,

wherein each of said first clip and said second clip comprise a hook portion so as to provide said means for securement to a head covering, said hook portion receiving a portion of a head covering therein such the it rests upon the head covering without piercing the head covering so as to support each of said first clip and said second clip and allowing each of said first clip and said second clip to hang from a head covering.

13. The strap of claim 12 wherein means for securement to a head covering comprises a thin strip of rigid material which has been formed into a general U-shape, wherein the general U-shape comprises a first leg and a second leg joined by a base portion, and wherein said base portion is small such that said first leg and said second leg are generally parallel and confronting, and such that a portion of the head covering may be retained therein.

14. The strap of claim 13 wherein said second leg has a length which is greater than said first leg, said second leg comprising a proximal end which abuts said base portion, said second leg comprising a distal end which is opposed to said proximal end,

said distal end of said second leg extending beyond said first leg and comprising said means for securement to said strand portion,

said means for securement to said strand portion comprising a fold in said distal end of second leg such that said distal end is folded back on itself such that it overlies and confronts itself, said means for securement to said strand portion comprising a through hole in said fold which is sized to receive said strand portion therethrough,

said strand comprising a first end, and mid portion, and a second end, said means for securement comprising a first end of said strand extending through said through hole in said fold, and further comprising a crimp in said distal end of said second leg such that said first end of said strand is compressed within said fold and can not be withdrawn from said through hole in said fold.

15. A kit for use in creating a chin strap from individual unassembled components, said kit comprising a plurality of individual components which, when assembled, form said chin strap, said plurality of individual components comprising

at least one strand of elongate material, said at least one strand having a first end, a second end, and a mid portion,

at least two clips, each of said at least two clips having means for retaining and holding a respective first end and second end of said at least one strand thereon, each of said at least two clips having means for securement to a head covering, and

at least one adjustment means, said at least one adjustment means sized and shaped to reside about the mid portion of said at least one strand when said chin strap is assembled, said at least one adjustment means allowing any slack in said at least one strand of elongate material to be adjusted when said chin strap is assembled.

16. The kit of claim 15 wherein said at least one adjustment means comprises a primary bead, said primary bead having at least one through hole, said at least one strand extending through each of said at least one through hole such that said mid portion of said at least one strand resides within said primary bead.

17. The kit of claim 16 wherein said at least one adjustment means further comprises a secondary bead,

said secondary bead having a secondary bead through hole and said secondary bead having a diameter which is greater than the diameter of said at least one through hole of said primary bead,

said primary bead having a single through hole such that when assembled, said at least one strand is inserted through said single through hole of said primary bead in a first direction and then is passed through said secondary bead through hole of said secondary bead, then said at least one strand is then reinserted through said single through hole of said primary bead in a second direction, where the second direction is opposed to the first direction such that said at least one strand is prevented from completely disengaging from said primary bead because of the presence of said secondary bead about said mid portion of said at least one strand.

18. The kit of claim 15 wherein said at least one adjustment means comprises a bead, said bead having at least two through holes, said at least one strand extending serially through each of said at least two through holes such that said mid portion of said at least one strand resides within said bead.

19. The kit of claim 15 wherein each of said at least two clips is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, said elongate sheet comprising a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width, said elongate sheet comprising a first end, a second end, and a body portion which extends along said length between said first end and said second end, said body portion of said elongate sheet comprising an inner surface and an outer surface,

said body portion being provided with a first fold adjacent to but spaced apart a first distance from said first end,

said first fold resulting in said first end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a first flange,

said body portion being provided with a second fold adjacent to but spaced apart a second distance from said second end, said second fold resulting in said second end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a second flange, said second distance being sized such that said second end abuts said first end,

said body portion being provided with a through hole which extends between said inner surface of said body portion and said outer surface of said body portion, said through hole being located in said first fold, said through hole being dimensioned to fittingly receive said strand therethrough.

20. The kit of claim **15** wherein each of said at least two clips is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, said elongate sheet comprising a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width, said elongate sheet comprising a first end, a second end, and a body portion which extends along said length between said first end and said second end, said body portion of said elongate sheet comprising an inner surface and an outer surface,

said body portion being provided with a fold adjacent to but spaced apart a first distance from said second end, said fold resulting in said second end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a flange, said first distance being sized to allow said first end to extend beyond said second end,

said body portion provided with a through hole which extends between the inner surface and the outer surface, said through hole being located adjacent first end such that it lies between first end and said flange, and said through hole being dimensioned to fittingly receive one of the respective first or second ends of the at least one strand therethrough.

21. A strap for retaining head coverings in adjacency to the head, said strap comprising a first clip, a second clip, and a strand portion extending between said first clip and said second clip,

wherein each of said first clip and said second clip is provided with a means for securement to a head covering and a means for:securement to said strand portion,

wherein said strand portion comprises a strand first end, a strand second end, and a strand mid portion which extends between said strand first end and said strand second end,

said strand portion further comprising a length which allows slack in said strand portion when said strand portion is secured to said head covering by means of said first clip and said second clip,

wherein said strand portion further comprises an adjustment means located in the mid portion thereof for use in adjustment of said slack in said strand portion, and

wherein means for securement to a head covering comprises a thin strip of rigid material which has been formed into a general U-shape, wherein the general U-shape comprises a first leg and a second leg joined by a base portion, and wherein said base portion is small such that said first leg and said second leg are generally parallel and confronting, and such that a portion of the head covering may be retained therein.

22. The strap of claim **21** wherein said second leg has a length which is greater than said first leg, said second leg comprising a proximal end which abuts said base portion, said second leg comprising a distal end which is opposed to said proximal end,

said distal end of said second leg extending beyond said first leg and comprising said means for securement to said strand portion,

said means for securement to said strand portion comprising a fold in said distal end of second leg such that said distal end is folded back on itself such that it overlies and confronts itself, said means for securement to said strand portion comprising a through hole in said fold which is sized to receive said strand portion therethrough,

said strand comprising a first end, and mid portion, and a second end,

said means for securement comprising a first end of said strand extending through said through hole in said fold, and further comprising a crimp in said distal end of said second leg such that said first end of said strand is compressed within said fold and can not be withdrawn from said through hole in said fold.

23. A kit for use in creating a chin strap from individual unassembled components, said kit comprising a plurality of individual components which, when assembled, form said chin strap, said plurality of individual components comprising

at least one strand of elongate material, said at least one strand having a first end, a second end, and a mid portion,

at least two clips, each of said at least two clips having means for retaining and holding a respective first end and second end of said at least one strand thereon, each of said at least two clips having means for securement to a head covering,

at least one adjustment means, said at least one adjustment means sized and shaped to reside about the mid portion of said at least one strand when said chin strap is assembled, said at least one adjustment means allowing any slack in said at least one strand of elongate material to be adjusted when said chin strap is assembled,

wherein said at least one adjustment means comprises a primary bead, said primary bead having at least one through hole, said at least one strand extending through each of said at least one through hole such that said mid portion of said at least one strand resides within said primary bead,

wherein said at least one adjustment means further comprises a secondary bead,

said secondary bead having a secondary bead through hole and said secondary bead having a diameter which is greater than the diameter of said at least one through hole of said primary bead,

said primary bead having a single through hole such that when assembled, said at least one strand is inserted through said single through hole of said primary bead in a first direction and then is passed through said secondary bead through hole of said secondary bead, then said at least one strand is then reinserted through said single through hole of said primary bead in a second direction, where the second direction is opposed to the first direction such that said at least one strand is prevented from completely disengaging from said primary bead because of the presence of said secondary bead about said mid portion of said at least one strand.

24. A kit for use in creating a chin strap from individual unassembled components, said kit comprising a plurality of individual components which, when assembled, form said chin strap, said plurality of individual components comprising

at least one strand of elongate material, said at least one strand having a first end, a second end, and a mid portion,

at least two clips, each of said at least two clips having means for retaining and holding a respective first end and second end of said at least one strand thereon, each of said at least two clips having means for securement to a head covering, and

at least one adjustment means, said at least one adjustment means sized and shaped to reside about the mid portion of said at least one strand when said chin strap is assembled, said at least one adjustment means allowing any slack in said at least one strand of elongate material to be adjusted when said chin strap is assembled,

wherein each of said at least two clips is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, said elongate sheet comprising a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width, said elongate sheet comprising a first end, a second end, and a body portion which extends along said length between said first end and said second end, said body portion of said elongate sheet comprising an inner surface and an outer surface,

said body portion being provided with a first fold adjacent to but spaced apart a first distance from said first end, said first fold resulting in said first end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a first flange,

said body portion being provided with a second fold adjacent to but spaced apart a second distance from said second end, said second fold resulting in said second end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a second flange, said second distance being sized such that said second end abuts said first end,

said body portion being provided with a through hole which extends between said inner surface of said body portion and said outer surface of said body portion, said through hole being located in said first fold, said through hole being dimensioned to fittingly receive said strand therethrough.

25. A kit for use in creating a chin strap from individual unassembled components, said kit comprising a plurality of individual components which, when assembled, form said chin strap, said plurality of individual components comprising

at least one strand of elongate material, said at least one strand having a first end, a second end, and a mid portion,

at least two clips, each of said at least two clips having means for retaining and holding a respective first end and second end of said at least one strand thereon, each of said at least two clips having means for securement to a head covering, and

at least one adjustment means, said at least one adjustment means sized and shaped to reside about the mid portion of said at least one strand when said chin strap is assembled, said at least one adjustment means allowing any slack in said at least one strand of elongate material to be adjusted when said chin strap is assembled,

wherein each of said at least two clips is comprised of an elongate sheet of material, said elongate sheet comprising a narrow width relative to its length, and a thickness which is small relative to its length and width, said elongate sheet comprising a first end, a second end, and a body portion which extends along said length between said first end and said second end, said body portion of said elongate sheet comprising an inner surface and an outer surface,

said body portion being provided with a fold adjacent to but spaced apart a first distance from said second end, said fold resulting in said second end being folded back so as to overlie and confront said inner surface of said body portion to form a flange, said first distance being sized to allow said first end to extend beyond said second end,

said body portion provided with a through hole which extends between the inner surface and the outer surface, said through hole being located adjacent first end such that it lies between first end and said flange, and said through hole being dimensioned to fittingly receive one of the respective first or second ends of the at least one strand therethrough.

26. A kit for use in creating a chin strap from individual unassembled components, said kit comprising a plurality of individual components which, when assembled, form said chin strap, said plurality of individual components comprising

at least one strand of elongate material, said at least one strand having a first end, a second end, and a mid portion,

at least two clips, each of said at least two clips having means for retaining and holding a respective first end and second end of said at least one strand thereon, each of said at least two clips having means for securement to a head covering, each of said at least two clips comprise a hook portion so as to provide said means for securement to a head covering, said hook portion allowing each of said first clip and said second clip to hang from a head covering, and at least one adjustment means, said at least one adjustment means sized and shaped to reside about the mid portion of said at least one strand when said chin strap is assembled, said at least one adjustment means allowing any slack in said at least one strand of elongate material to be adjusted when said chin strap is assembled.

27. A combination hat and chin strap,

wherein the hat comprises a crown portion,

the crown portion being generally hemispherical in shape and having a hollow interior such that the crown portion comprises an interior surface and an exterior surface, the crown portion further comprising an apex and a generally circular base,

the crown portion further comprising a band, said band resulting from the inward folding of the peripheral edge of the crown portion such that the band extends toward said apex and overlies and confronts the interior surface

of the crown portion adjacent to said base, said band comprising a free edge and a fold edge,

wherein said fold edge of said band consists of the portion of said crown portion which corresponds to the folding of the peripheral edge of the crown portion, said fold edge defining said generally circular base,

wherein said band terminates within said hollow interior of said crown portion at said free edge, said free edge being adjacent to but spaced apart from said fold edge such that said band has a height,

wherein said chin strap comprises an elongate flexible strand having a first end and a second end,

said chin strap being secured to said band by means of a clip, wherein two of said clips are used such that a clip is provided for each of said first and second ends, respectively, of said chin strap,

said chin strap further comprising a length which allows slack in said strand when said strand is secured to said band by means of said clip.

28. The combination hat and chin strap of claim **27** wherein the elongate flexible strand is a single, continuous element, the elongate flexible strand comprising a mid portion which extends between said first end and said second end.

29. The combination hat and chin strap of claim **28** wherein said chin strap further comprises an adjustment means for adjusting said slack in said elongate flexible strand to the comfort of the wearer.

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